

# The Staff Update

October 22, 2021 | [www.goodwinhouse.org/staffupdate](http://www.goodwinhouse.org/staffupdate)

## Update Your Benefits Before November 3

Open enrollment is your **only** opportunity outside of a life event to enroll in or opt out of insurance plans, add or drop dependents and adjust your coverage levels. Update your enrollments soon to ensure timely processing.

**November 3 is the last day you will be able to make changes**, so don't delay!

There were no significant changes to existing plans this year, though we've added a new plan to the options available to you. The first is an the Anthem BCBS 90, a medical insurance option. We also updated Cigna DD25, the dental and orthopedic insurance option.

If you missed last week's benefit fairs, you may attend a virtual benefit fair on **Thursday, October 28, from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Our benefit partners from the Church Pension Fund will be there to explain the medical, dental and vision plans, and to answer your questions. Jeanne Hobbs will also be there to provide a review of the other benefits we offer.

As a reminder, if you do not make changes, your current elections will rollover, **with the exception of the FSA plans**. If you wish to continue your current FSA enrollment, you must make the elections in ADP by November 3.

Please note: All enrollments must be completed online through ADP WorkforceNow. Visit [www.workforcenow.adp.com/login](http://www.workforcenow.adp.com/login). If you have not yet registered for ADP, you can find registration instructions attached and on the Staff Update page.

## Let's Celebrate! GHI Is Best in Business Finalist!

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber ALX) recognized Goodwin House Inc. as a finalist in its 2021 Best in Business awards. We are honored to have been one of seven finalists from many organizations in the running for Nonprofit & Association of the Year. We congratulate ACT Alexandria on being selected.

Every year, The Chamber ALX celebrates member organizations for their excellence, success and commitment to the local community. Through a competitive process, they selected Goodwin House for our efforts during the pandemic. We not only supported staff, residents and members, we extended help to the broader community. We organized group purchases of PPE. We provided testing resources to the Campagna Center. We also shared our COVID Playbook online to help other organizations manage through the pandemic.

All this would not be possible without you! Thank you for being part of the Goodwin House Family, and **congratulations – this is your honor, too!**

# Exciting Changes for Tuition Assistance

There has never been a better time to think about going back to school!

In the coming weeks, you will learn about positive changes being made to the Tuition Assistance program funded through the Goodwin House Foundation, including an increase in the amount of tuition assistance available to each staff member!

We remain committed to helping staff achieve their educational goals through the generous donors who contribute to the Foundation in support of staff education.

## If You're Sick, Do Not Come to Work & Call Your Supervisor

**As you come into work, please think twice before responding to the daily screening questions.** The safety, health and well-being of the residents, patients, members and co-workers depends on it.

While experiencing these symptoms does not necessarily mean that you have COVID-19, it does mean that we must rule it out. **If you have any symptoms described in the screening questions, do not come into work and contact your supervisor immediately.** Those currently awaiting COVID-19 test results should also not come to work. Your supervisor will advise you during the waiting period.

Concerned about missing work due to COVID-19? **Our COVID-19 Leave Policy is in place to help you** through these challenging times. If you need extended time off due to work-related exposure to COVID-19, your first five days of leave are covered through the COVID-19 Leave Policy. If you need to remain off for more than one week, PTO and other forms of paid leave are available. If you are out due to COVID-19, a member of the HR team will contact you regarding next steps.

## Should You Get a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster?

### *A Message from Dr. Margaret Gloria, GHI Medical Director*

Are you wondering if you should get a COVID-19 booster? I get questions all the time about why we need boosters, who needs one and if are they different from the first vaccine.

Similar to a flu vaccine, which we all get yearly, we should plan on needing a COVID-19 vaccine booster, too. How often we need a COVID-19 vaccine booster remains to be seen; for right now, the CDC is recommending boosters every six months. The CDC has detailed other qualifications, such as having a "high risk job" in healthcare (that's us!) or being over the age of 65. You can learn more at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>

The FDA has also announced that people who received the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines should get boosters too, and the best part is the FDA says we can "mix-and-match" boosters in vaccines. This means that if you initially received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, it's safe to have a Pfizer vaccine booster. If you have had a Pfizer vaccine, it's safe to get a Moderna booster, and so on. Stay tuned for more info to come on how GHI will provide more boosters to staff.

The boosters are no different from the original vaccine. Due to the fact that our immunity fades over time (just like with the flu!), we need to ensure our bodies remain strong enough to fight a disease that's designed to adapt. For now, the original COVID-19 vaccine remains safe and effective at protecting us and those we love from COVID-19. Thank you for doing your part in keeping our community safe!

## COVID-19 Case Update

There are 0 cases of COVID-19 at GHA and 1 staff case at GHBC.